

MAKE IT IN AMERICA

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to talk about the Democrats' plan to get the middle class working in America again. The Democrats' Make It In America plan will boost job growth by giving employers tax incentives for jobs created in the U.S. It also raises the minimum wage and updates our current infrastructure.

I want the constituents that I serve in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex to know that me and other Democrats are here, working hard for America to bring back these good-paying jobs.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I wanted everyone to know that I started my Marc Means Business initiative, where I work spending time at different jobs in the district that I serve.

This month, I worked at a concrete batch plant as a laborer at a downtown highway construction site in Dallas. Not only do I get to see what the constituents that I serve go through every day on the site, but this also highlights just how important rebuilding our infrastructure is to the U.S. economy.

Let's give middle class Americans a jump-start and continue to work on policies that expand our economy and get Americans back to work.

100TH BIRTHDAY OF ST. STEPHEN, MINNESOTA

(Mrs. BACHMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, it is such a thrill to be a Member of the United States House of Representatives. We are privileged to represent the great people in our districts, and I am obviously very biased that for 8 years, I have been privileged to represent what are the greatest people I think in the United States.

We truly embody in Minnesota's Sixth District the great, good-humored, full values of this country that are represented in that district, and this is a feel-good story, Mr. Speaker.

I rise today to honor the people of St. Stephen, Minnesota, as they are celebrating their 100th birthday as a community. You see, it was in the late 1800s when Slovenian settlers came to this wonderful area in Minnesota and built the foundation of what later came to be called St. Stephen, Minnesota. It is what America fondly refers to as Lake Wobegon.

Today, led by Mayor Cindy VanderWeyst, St. Stephen boasts a very close-knit community of families and farmers and businesspeople. It is fitting that the town motto is "A Place to Call Home" and that it truly is.

St. Stephen is a shining example of small-town life in the United States. Congratulations, St. Stephen, on your 100th birthday.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, far too many of our young girls have fallen victim to modern day slavery. Last fall, I witnessed human trafficking firsthand during a visit to Costa Rica with my colleague from Texas, TED POE.

The stories we heard were heartwrenching. Girls—8, 9, 10, 13 years old—were being victimized and abused by grown men. This is not just a problem outside our borders. This is happening in our backyards.

In my community in Los Angeles, African American girls are overwhelmingly at a greater risk, making up 92 percent of youth sex trafficking victims. This is alarming and shameful.

On the average, victims are recruited between the ages of 12 and 14. These girls are victims, not criminals, and we must do everything in our power to protect them.

Recently, we have seen a paradigm shift in the protection of these victims. L.A. District Attorney Jackie Lacey has implemented the First Step diversion program, which will give victims the opportunity to rebuild their lives through counseling and education, an alternative to prosecution.

Programs like this and my colleague KAREN BASS' legislation that is on the floor today will help protect victims of human trafficking and not punish them.

HAPPY 91ST BIRTHDAY, BOB DOLE

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, Senator Bob Dole, born and raised in Russell, Kansas, and a graduate of the University of Kansas, has spent his life in the service of the American people and today remains the embodiment of public service. On Tuesday, Kansans from all across the Sunflower State wished him a happy 91st birthday.

Senator Dole enlisted in the Army once the U.S. entered World War II and was stationed in Italy. While leading an assault on a German machine gun nest, Senator Dole's unit was heavily fired upon.

Without hesitation, Senator Dole courageously returned to help rescue an injured radioman—he, himself, suffering life-threatening injuries. Many Army medics didn't think Senator Dole would survive.

With a strong spirit and steadfast resolve common to many Kansans, Senator Dole not only survived, but he returned home to the Sunflower State and spent many years in elected service on behalf of Kansans, including in the State house, as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S.

Senate, and runs as Vice President and President of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of pride to that I wish my good friend and fellow Jayhawk, Senator Bob Dole, a happy 91st birthday and many more to come.

Happy birthday, Senator Dole.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK REAUTHORIZATION

(Ms. KUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, I was honored to bring together New Hampshire business leaders to discuss the importance of the Export-Import Bank and to call for its immediate reauthorization.

I thank leaders from BAE, Boyle Energy, Conductive Components, and other Granite State employers for joining this important discussion on how supporting U.S. exports grows our economy and creates good jobs here at home.

The Export-Import Bank provides essential risk management services to American businesses selling their products in an unstable global economy. Dozens of Granite State firms have used these services, which have supported over \$350 million in New Hampshire exports in recent years, and in New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, the top destination for American exports is China.

Because of the Export-Import Bank, more consumers across the world are buying goods stamped "Made in America," and more American families are able to make it here in America. Granite State exporters, like Mountain Corporation, Arch Energy, and Centorr Vacuum are counting on Congress to act, but time is running out.

In just over 2 months, authorization for the bank will expire, and I have heard from New Hampshire exporters who are already losing business because of uncertainty over the bank's future.

So let's renew this commonsense program that grows our economy, reduces the budget deficit, and helps create jobs.

MEDICAID EXPANSION

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker and Members, I rise today as member of the new congressional State Medicaid Expansion Caucus, and I call on my colleagues to join us in encouraging States to close the coverage gaps by expanding Medicaid.

Texas, my home State, has the option to accept Federal Medicaid funding to provide affordable health insurance to more than 1.4 million uninsured Texans. For many of these citizens, there is no affordable option, as